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Agenda item 94 (b)

Environment and sustainable development: Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Morocco:* draft resolution

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/196 of 21 December 2001, 57/259 of 20 December 2002 and other resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,¹

Recalling also the decision of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to make the Global Environment Facility a financial mechanism of the Convention, and recognizing the strong commitment of the international community demonstrated by the subsequent decisions of the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility and the Council of the Facility in this regard,

Recognizing the role of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention as the highest decision-making body in providing guidance to the Global Environment Facility as a financial mechanism for the Convention in its implementation,

Reaffirming that the Convention is an important tool for poverty eradication, and recognizing its universality as well as the importance of the implementation of the Convention for meeting the Millennium Development Goals,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

Expressing its deep appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Cuba for hosting the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Havana from 25 August to 5 September 2003,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;²
2. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa at its sixth session to accept the Global Environment Facility as a financial mechanism of the Convention, and invites the Council of the Facility to make the necessary arrangements to put this decision into effect;
3. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Council of the Global Environment Facility at its meeting held at Washington, D.C. from 14 to 16 May 2003 to establish a new operational programme on sustainable land management, and requests the secretariat of the Facility to discuss with the Convention secretariat the arrangements to facilitate collaboration between the Facility and the Convention and in this regard looks forward to a memorandum of understanding between the Conference of Parties to the Convention and the Council of the Facility;
4. *Notes* the potential of the decision of the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, held at Beijing from 16 to 18 October 2002, to make land degradation a new focal area of the Facility in the implementation of the Convention;
5. *Notes with appreciation,* the increased number of affected developing country parties that have adopted their national, subregional and regional action programmes, and urges affected developing countries that have not yet done so to accelerate the process of elaboration and adoption of their action programmes, with a view to finalizing them as soon as possible;
6. *Urges* the international community to take effective measures for the implementation of the Convention through bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes;
7. *Urges also* the United Nations funds and programmes, the Bretton Woods institutions, the donor countries and other development agencies to integrate the provisions of the Convention in their strategies to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other agreed development goals;
8. *Invites* all parties to pay promptly and in full the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention for the biennium 2002-2003, and urges all parties that have not yet paid their contributions for the year 1999 and/or the biennium 2000-2001 to do so as soon as possible in order to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism;
9. *Calls upon* Governments and invites multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the

² A/58/158.

financial rules of the Conference of the Parties,³ and welcomes the financial support already provided by some countries;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provision for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, including the seventh ordinary session of the Conference and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa".

³ ICCD/COP (1)/11/Add.1 and Corr.1, decision 2/COP.1, annex, paras. 7-11.